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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Notes on the fauna of a remnant bushland in Victoria Park — Remnant areas of bushland in the inner metropolitan area contain examples of the fauna that would have existed over large areas before subdivision for housing. A one hectare block on the corner of Berwick Street and Hillview Terrace, Victoria Park has large numbers of native plant species — three banksias, a number of Christmas Trees and many small flowering shrubs which are not apparent from the road. The soil type is Bassendean Sand.

A study was made of the site from 18 to 27 November 1990. Six pitfall traps of 50cm deep, 17cm diameter PVC piping were placed 8 metres apart and connected by a 50m long, 30cm high fence of aluminium flywire mesh. Each pit was covered at the bottom by flywire to prevent burrowing animals from escaping. The pits were checked daily at 6am and all species were recorded and vertebrates were weighed, measured and released. Bird species were also recorded at this time.

The ten day study in spring found that at least four species of reptiles survive on the site. The fast moving *Ctenotus lesueurii* striped skink was particularly

abundant and 15 were trapped. Two other small skinks *Menetia greyii* (5) and *Lerista elegans* (1) were recorded, as was the Bobtail *tiliqua rugosa* (1).

The introduced House Mouse *Mus musculus* was trapped and dog and cat tracks were seen. No native mammals were recorded.

Six native and two introduced bird species were sighted during the study. The Singing and Brown Honeyeaters *Lichmera indistincta* and *Meliphaga virescens* were abundant and feeding on the flowering Candlestick *Banksia Banksia attenuata* and the Christmas Trees *Nuytsia floribunda*. The Australian Magpie *Cracticus tibicen* was present as individuals as well as a family group and the Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae*, the Red Wattlebird *Anthochaera carunculata* and the Willy Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys* were also recorded. The Laughing Dove *Streptopelia senegalensis* and the Spotted Dove *S. chinensis* were also recorded.

Numerous invertebrates were sighted but only those in the pitfall traps were recorded. These were a beautiful golden centipede, two species of carab beetles (both in great numbers), wolf spiders, ants, earwigs, bush cockroaches, European bees, an orange and black wasp and a solitary ant (wingless female thynnid wasp).

The block is a surprisingly rich bushland considering its small size and the fact that it has been surrounded by housing for about forty years. This bushland is about 1 km from Reserve 3694 which was reported on in *West. Aust. Nat.* 18: 131-138.

— MARGARET C. TURPIN, 175 Hensman Street, Kensington, 6151

**Food Items of Red Wattlebirds** — In Spring and early Summer Red Wattlebirds, *Anthochaera carunculata*, sit near a beehive and catch honeybees in my garden. The bee is either pounced on as it nears the hive entrance or hovers around the hive. Up to six bees were taken within one hour by the same bird (recognisable by feather damage). Sometimes the birds perched nearby, squashed the bees in their bill and swallowed them. No precautions were taken in dealing with the bee's sting. Sometimes the bees were taken away, perhaps to be fed to nestlings.

Red Wattlebirds also take the white, fleshy, sweet petals of a Guava, *Feijoa sellowiana*, which flowers for about six weeks in Spring.

— OTTO MUELLER, 7 Hamer Avenue, Wembley Downs 6019.

**A spider capturing a centipede** — In February 1981, I was staying in the staff quarters at the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation Centre, Point Peron, 47 km south of Fremantle, Western Australia.

On the morning of 10 February in the "wash-basin" area, I observed a spider with a centipede in its web. At the time, the prey was feebly struggling and the spider had its chelicerae firmly sunk into the soft pleural membrane close to the 8th segment.